



PATENT
Docket No. 15939-17

I hereby certify that on **February 24, 2003**, which is the date I am signing this certificate, I am depositing this correspondence the United States Postal Service, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Address" mailing Label Number **EL920452786US** addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Florence Thys-Doucet
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Applicant: Chen et al.
Serial No.: 09/750,551
Filed: December 28, 2000
Title: Electric Spindle Motor and Method
Having Magnetic Starting/Stopping Device
Examiner: D. D. Le:
Group Art Unit: 2834:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

As a preliminary amendment and being responsive to the Office Action of August 23, 2002 please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please cancel claims 2-3 and 9-10 and 13-23 without prejudice to applicant's continued prosecution of the amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-8 presented herewith. A marked up copy of the two amended claims are attached to show changes.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An electric spindle motor having a thrust bearing separate from a radial bearing, comprising:

a base plate;

a rotatable assembly including a rotatable sleeve extending substantially perpendicular from said base plate along a rotational axis, wherein said rotatable assembly is supported by said base plate;

a radial bearing including a stationary shaft securely coupled to said base plate, and extending within said sleeve along said rotational axis and spaced therefrom to define a first clearance gap and a liquid situated within said first clearance gap for providing at least radial stiffness for said rotatable sleeve;

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